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Millennium Challenge Account Belize

CLARIFICATION NOTICE No. 1

Consultancy for Employers Representative

Ref. No: MCA-B/EP/QCBS/26/3010

Issue Date: 9 October 2026

No	Reference of RFO	Question	Response
1.	TOR 1.1, 3.1, 7.2–7.3	Please confirm the planned EPCI procurement method (single-stage or two-stage, with or without prequalification) and the expected number of bidders. Please also state how many evaluation and negotiation rounds are expected, and whether they will take place in Belize.	The EPCI procurement will be two-stage (i.e. first stage technical and second stage financial), and there will be no pre-qualification given the limited number of qualified manufacturers meeting U.S. Government source eligibility restrictions and EPCI contractors experienced in shallow water installation. Based on extensive market outreach conducted by MCA-Belize and MCC, we expect no more than four to six total offers. There will be a single round of technical evaluation and consensus scoring, which the ER can join remotely, and an undetermined number of negotiation meetings, which may also be held remotely given that likely offerors are based around the globe.
2.	TOR 1.1, 7.1–7.2, 7.7; SCC 16.3	The 12-month DNP and closeout could fall after the Compact End Date. How will post-Compact services be contracted and funded?	As is the case with all MCC compact agreements with partner countries worldwide, any goods, works, or services that are completed after the Compact End Date will be the responsibility of the partner government. There is standard

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			language in the existing Belize Compact agreement to this effect, and the Government of Belize through the Ministry of Finance has separately committed to MCC to taking over and paying all contracts that extend beyond the Compact End Date.
3.	SCC 17.1 and 17.3; incorporated GCC	Will an advance payment be available (percentage and required guarantee)?	The published payment schedule for the ER procurement provides payments against the listed deliverables and contains no advance payment milestone. Offerors shall prepare their Financial Offers using that schedule.
4.		The ER is only expected to review and finalize the draft Employer's Requirements prepared by MCA-Belize? Please indicate the current level of completion of the draft Employer's Requirements and Particular Conditions	Yes, the ER is only expected to review and finalize the draft Employer's Requirements and associated EPCI procurement documents. MCA-Belize expects to have a complete first draft of the Employer's Requirements and FIDIC Silver Book - Solicitation document, including any MCC-specific PCCs, by December 31, 2026.
5.		Please provide the expected number of Contractor design submissions, and the number of review cycles to be assumed.	The number and content of design submissions will be determined by the EPCI Contractor's design development process and the requirements of the EPCI Contract. Offerors should include in their proposals all resources necessary to review and administer the complete design process. The Employer does not prescribe a fixed number of design packages or review cycles, and offerors are expected to base their level of effort on their professional experience of a submarine and

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			underground cable EPCI project of similar scale and complexity.
6.		Is the ER expected to witness cable load-out at the factory, trans spooling and arrival in Belize?	The ER is expected to witness cable loading, transfer and transportation operations where such activities are defined as critical Hold/Witness Points identified through the approved Inspection and Test Plans.
7.	TOR 3.7, 6.1, 7.2–7.3	Please specify the expected number of ER personnel offshore (per shift), and whether coverage should be vessel-based, shore-based, or both. Please also state the expected duration of the marine campaign and the number of campaigns.	MCA-Belize does not prescribe a fixed number of ER personnel per shift. The ER shall determine and propose the suitable staffing and rotation necessary to provide effective supervision continuously or on shift based. Coverage may be vessel-based, shore-based or a combination, depending on the activity. The final marine campaign duration and number of campaigns will depend on the EPCI Contractor's approved programme.
8.		ToR requires the ER to "verify technical integration". Does this include reviewing BEL's designs (protection, SCADA, earthing, GIS terminations) and attending BEL's tests and energization? If so, to what extent?	Only to the extent needed for integration with the EPCI works. The ER's role in respect of BEL's works is interface verification, not a full design review or construction supervision. It covers: (a) reviewing BEL's interface data and designs that affect the EPCI scope, namely protection scheme and settings coordination for the cable circuit, earthing and sheath-bonding interfaces, the GIS cable termination interface, and SCADA/telecommunication and fibre-optic interfaces; (b) confirming that the interfaces are ready before energization

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			(c) witnessing the integrated tests that involve both the EPCI and BEL works, namely end-to-end protection tests, energization and the trial operation period
9.		Please provide the number of MCA-Belize staff to be trained and confirm that training will take place in Belize or can be done remotely.	The total number of MCA-Belize staff to be trained is up to six, and the training may take place remotely.
10.		Please confirm the minimum professional liability insurance amount and the liability cap applicable under the ER Contract.	Please refer to Addendum No. 1, which amends the relevant RFO provisions to address this clarification.
11.	Section III, 1.3	Criterion 1.3 of Firm Experience and Relevant Portfolio: Does "two (2)" mean two projects? Must each project cover all listed activities, or is combined coverage acceptable?	Please refer to Addendum No. 1, which amends the relevant RFO provisions to address this clarification.
12.		The EPCI programme leaves no time for new type tests or prequalification tests. Please confirm that the ER's role is limited to reviewing the existing type-test and PQ certificates, with no witnessing of new tests	The ER should first assess whether existing certified test reports cover the actual cable/accessory design and required service conditions. MCA-Belize cannot presently confirm that no additional type or prequalification testing will be required. Witnessing of additional tests will remain necessary where prequalification is inadequate or the EPCI Contractor requires them. The ER shall review/witness as appropriate.



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13.		The payment schedule provides for only two Factory Inspection Reports. For a project of this nature, we would expect more FAT witnessing. How many additional visits requested by the Employer will be remunerated?	The ER base scope includes the witnessing of two (2) FATs, which is the minimum requirement from the Employer and which shall be priced in the Financial Offer. If offerors feel additional FAT witnessing is required please note that in the Technical offer and price separately in your financial offer.
14.		None of the key experts is explicitly required to have onshore HV cable experience. Is the Submarine Power Cable Engineer expected to cover the underground cable works?	Yes, it is expected that the ER submarine cable expert to have sufficient underground cable expertise.
15.		Deliverable 6 (Testing and Commissioning Reports) and Deliverable 7 (Taking Over Recommendation) appear to share the same trigger (completion of the Tests on Completion) and partly overlap in content. Please clarify whether Deliverable 6 is meant to precede energization, with Deliverable 7 following energization and the trial operation period.	Deliverable 6 trigger is two (2) weeks after completion of testing and commissioning. The Testing and Commissioning Report documents the testing and commissioning activities, results, deficiencies and matters requiring resolution before energization, Taking-Over or operational handover, as applicable. Deliverable 7 trigger is confirmation of operational readiness, which follows completion of testing and commissioning. It is a subsequent contractual assessment confirming whether the requirements for Taking-Over have been satisfied.
16.		Please clarify what FEED documentation will be provided to the ER for review and use in preparing the EPCI procurement package.	MCA-Belize will be taking an EPCI procurement approach, so there will be no formal FEED package provided to the ER. The selected EPCI contractor will be responsible for the cable design and installation approach. MCA-Belize will provide the ER with the available project



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			information such as recent feasibility study commissioned by utility BEL. Bathymetric data, marine studies and the geotechnical and geophysical investigation reports are not available at this time.
17.		Please confirm what legal and commercial support will be provided by MCA and what legal or commercial input is expected from the ER in preparing the EPCI procurement package.	The Employer's Representative is expected to provide technical, contractual and commercial input necessary to support the preparation and finalization of the EPCI procurement package. This includes review and finalization of the Employer's Requirements, Particular Conditions of Contract, contract schedules, allocation of technical and contractual risks, tender clarifications/addendum, tender evaluation support including price reasonableness analysis, and contract finalization activities. The ER is not expected to act as legal counsel to MCA-Belize. Any specialist legal advice, legal drafting, or legal review of procurement and contract documentation will be provided separately by MCA-Belize and/or its own external FIDIC legal counsel. However, offerors should include personnel with sufficient FIDIC Silver Book and EPCI contract management experience to provide informed contractual and commercial input on procurement documentation, risk allocation, claims, variations and contract administration matters.

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18.		Please confirm the anticipated dates for ER appointment, contract execution, and commencement of the services.	The anticipated ER contract award/appointment date is end-December 2026/early January 2027, with commencement of services expected immediately afterwards and by no later than the first half of January 2027.
19.		Please confirm whether qualified offshore and site personnel may be deployed rotationally under named discipline leads and whether any specific experience requirements apply to those personnel.	Yes, qualified offshore and site personnel may be deployed rotationally under named discipline leads. There are no specific experience requirements; however, it is expected that other personnel will have the requisite expertise and experience to perform their role.
20.		Please confirm whether the ESHS Lead is a Key Expert or Other Expert and provide the applicable qualification and evaluation requirements.	The ESHS Lead falls under "Other Experts." While this position is not a Key Expert, offerors are expected to propose an ESHS Lead with qualifications and experience commensurate with the ESHS responsibilities described in the ToR.
21.		Please clarify the Social Analyst's role and responsibilities.	The Social Analysis Specialist is included as an Other Expert and is intended to support the Employer's Representative in fulfilling the social performance, stakeholder engagement, and grievance management obligations described in the ToR. The ER's role is to monitor compliance with the relevant approved plans and verify that contractual social obligations have been satisfied before and during construction and cable installation
22.		Please confirm whether the Financial Proposal should be submitted on a lump-sum, time-based, or hybrid basis. Please confirm what is required in terms of level of detail and breakdown for the submission	The offer is for a fixed-price contract in USD, with payments linked to the SCC 17.3 deliverables. Submit FIN-1 (Financial Offer Submission), FIN-2 (total fully loaded price) and FIN-3 (fully loaded personnel rates), aligned with



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			TECH-8 and TECH-9. FIN-3 is for price-reasonableness assessment and possible additional services; it does not convert the base contract into a time-based or hybrid contract.
23.		Please confirm how the ER's fees, level of effort, and completion date will be adjusted if the EPCI programme is delayed, suspended, extended, or materially re-sequenced.	Offerors should base their price proposal on the indicative programme and assignment duration stated in the ToR. Any adjustments required as a result of delays, suspensions, extensions or material resequencing of the EPCI Contract will be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the ER Contract governing variations, contract amendments, and/or extensions of services.
24.		Please define the technical boundary conditions and battery limits of the EPCI package in relation to the overall transmission circuit design and construction works.	The technical and contractual boundaries of the EPCI Contract are defined in Section 1.3.2 of the ToR. The EPCI Contractor is responsible for the design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing, commissioning and integration of the submarine and underground cable system works funded by MCA-Belize, while specific terrestrial transmission facilities are being delivered separately by BEL. The battery limits of the EPCI Contract are therefore the physical and electrical interfaces between the EPCI cable system and the BEL-delivered facilities at the mainland and Ambergris Caye ends. The EPCI Contractor is responsible for designing and delivering all cable-system facilities necessary to achieve a complete and operational connection at those



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			interfaces, while BEL remains responsible for the design and delivery of its own substations, overhead line, protection, control, SCADA, communications and related terrestrial infrastructure.
25.		Please confirm whether an independent Marine Warranty Surveyor will be appointed and, if so, clarify the division of responsibilities between the MWS and the ER. (Including if this will be with project developer / MCA or with the cable EPCI).	MCA-Belize does not intend to appoint its own Marine Warranty Surveyor (MWS). Where the EPCI Contractor's insurers require an MWS (as is normal for marine cargo and construction all-risks cover), the Employer's Requirements will require the EPCI Contractor to appoint, and pay for, an MWS acceptable to its insurers. If an MWS is subsequently appointed, the respective interfaces will be defined at that time without relieving the ER of its contractual responsibilities.
26.		Please confirm the applicable qualification and evaluation requirements for the ESHS Lead role.	No minimum qualification or specific qualification requirement are prescribed for the ESHS Lead in the ToR, and no separate evaluation criteria will be applied to this position. Offerors remain responsible for demonstrating that their ESHS lead is qualified, experienced and competent to perform the Services described in role in the ToR.
27.		Please confirm whether travel, accommodation, subsistence, and other travel-related expenses should be included in the Financial Proposal or reimbursed separately, and provide any applicable rates or reimbursement rules.	Travel, accommodation, subsistence and other travel-related expenses required to perform the services shall be included in the fully loaded Financial Proposal.



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28.		Do you have an estimation for the necessity and duration of any environmental compliance site attendance?	This will be established in the Environmental & Social Management Plan and Environmental Compliance Plan. The frequency of inspections by permitting agencies is not determined by BEL nor MCA-Belize, but by the relevant authorities. However, there is a need to respond and interact when requested by government authorities.
29.		Please confirm whether MCA-Belize anticipates any restrictions or preferences regarding the country of origin of submarine cable systems, major equipment, or EPCI contractors, including suppliers from Asia.	MCA-Belize is not permitted under MCC Program Procurement Guidelines to give any preferences based on country of origin. MCC does have an explicit policy prohibiting government-owned enterprises from competing for MCC-funded contracts. Government-owned enterprises include enterprises organized in/under non-market economy countries/governments. (See list of non-market economy countries at https://www.trade.gov/nme-countries-list-and-surrogate-country-list-memos). This RFO does not establish the eligibility provisions of the future EPCI tender, but MCC Program Procurement Guidelines and its policy on government-owned entities will apply to it as well.
30.		Page 6, ITO 16.1 • Please confirm abbreviation DS?	"DS" means "Data Sheet," provided in Section II of the RFO.

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31.		Page 10, Table of Mandatory Criteria • Can you expand further on the exact requirements of Mandatory Criterion 1? For example, does the mandatory role need to have included design phase, procurement / manufacturing phase and installation phase on a single project? Or can it be for one of the phases or spread across multiple projects?	For the avoidance of doubt, the referenced assignment does not need to have included responsibility for every project phase (design, procurement/manufacturing, installation, testing and commissioning) under a single contract. The purpose of the criterion is to demonstrate that the firm has successfully performed an Employer-side contract administration, owner's engineering, or supervisory role on a submarine transmission cable project delivered under an EPC/Turnkey or Design-Build arrangement.

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32.	Section III	Page 11, Section 3 Key Personnel • Is the Team Leader / Employer's Representative, Submarine Power Cable Engineer and Marine Installation Specialist each expected to be a single person (3 persons total) or can the requirements for each be spread across multiple persons? For example, Submarine Power Cable Engineer would typically either have an electrical, mechanical, civil, geotechnical etc. background disciplines and undertake either cable rating and thermal studies or route engineering or installation and constructability assessments rather than lead all of these studies on a single project. The same would be true of the Marine Installation Specialist where there would specialize in e.g. Cable Laying or Burial methodologies as they require different skillsets and engineering disciplines.	The Team Leader / Employer's Representative, Submarine Power Cable Engineer and Marine Installation Specialist are each identified as separate Key Personnel positions and Offerors are required to nominate one individual for each Key Personnel position in accordance with the proposal forms and evaluation criteria. The evaluation will focus on whether the proposed Key Personnel satisfy the overall qualifications and experience requirements of the position, taking into account the experts' experience across the cited projects, rather than requiring that every listed competency was personally performed by the individual on a single assignment.

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33.		Page 58 and 59, Price Summary and Breakdown of Rates • Exact fully loaded prices are unknown for a future multi year scope years in advance. Can these be estimated in the proposal to be charged at cost plus? Please confirm the definition of Foreign and Local staff - non US and US?	Offerors shall submit a fixed total price based on their assessment of the resources and costs required to perform the assignment. A cost-plus reimbursement basis is not provided for in the RFO. "Foreign Staff" refers to personnel engaged internationally, while "Local Staff" refers to personnel engaged locally in Belize. These categories do not mean non-US and US personnel.
34.		Document "SECTION V._TOR_Employer's Representative" Page 11, Scope of Services 1.Does MCA - Belize have an (expected / preliminary) EPCI Master Document Register for the Design Review and Technical Assurance Workstream? 2.Please confirm the definition of the term "resident" for Construction and Installation Supervision Workstream?	1. MCA-Belize does not prescribe an EPCI Master Document Register at this stage. The EPCI Contractor will be required to establish and maintain its document/submittal register, and the ER shall establish the corresponding review/tracking system necessary to administer the design-review process. 2. "Resident" means personnel deployed at the relevant project/site location for the duration necessary to provide effective day-to-day supervision of the applicable activity, including rotational deployment where appropriate or where continuity is maintained. It does not mean that the Team Leader must reside in Belize continuously for the entire Contract.



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35.	Section III	**RFO, Section III, Pages 10-11:** For Mandatory Criterion 1, may Offerors demonstrate compliance using projects that involve comparable EPC/Turnkey or Design-Build contract administration responsibilities for other submarine cable systems (e.g., fiber)? If so, please confirm whether such experience would be considered equivalent for purposes of satisfying Mandatory Criterion 1.	No. For purposes of Mandatory Criterion 1, MCA-Belize intends the requirement to apply specifically to submarine transmission power cable projects.
36.	ITO 12.5	**Instructions of Offerors, Section 12.5.(m) Page I-20:** Section 12.5(m) states that Offerors should provide "a detailed description of the proposed methodology and staffing for training, if training is identified in the Terms of Reference as a specific component of the assignment (Form TECH-)." However, no corresponding Form TECH- appears to be included in Section IV of the RFO. Please confirm: Whether a specific training form is missing from the RFO; or Whether the required training methodology and staffing information should be incorporated somewhere else in the proposal, and if so, where.	No separate training form is required. Offerors shall include the proposed methodology, work plan and staffing for the training activities specified in TOR Section 3.3.3 in Form TECH-6. Relevant personnel, staffing inputs and training activities shall also be reflected in Forms TECH-8, TECH-9 and TECH-10, as applicable.
37.		Can MCA-Belize clarify the level of completeness of the EPCI Contract documentation it expects to provide to the awarded offeror for initial review. E.g., fully complete or with gaps to be filled by Employer's Representative	MCA-Belize intends to provide the awarded Employer's Representative with a substantially developed procurement package, including the 1st draft of the Employer's Requirements, technical studies, available surveys, procurement



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			documents, 1st draft of the EPCI Contract, Particular Conditions and associated schedules that have been prepared during project development and procurement preparation activities. However, the ToR expressly requires the ER to review, update, support the finalization of, and assist in completing the EPCI procurement package. The procurement support scope includes review of the Project scope, feasibility studies, route studies, technical basis, Employer's Requirements, EPCI procurement documents, Particular Conditions, schedules, technical requirements, performance requirements, quality and testing requirements, ESHS requirements, interfaces and contractual deliverables.
38.		Can MCA-Belize elaborate on the types of activities it anticipates the Employer's Representative to provide support during the procurement period (e.g. responding to RFIs, staffing evaluation panels). Is this phase of support envisioned to be remote or in-country?	MCA-Belize will request ER support on technical and contract-administration review of the procurement package, in joining the pre-offer conference, responding to requests for clarification/addendum, staffing the evaluation panel and reviewing technical offers, and determining price reasonableness of the selected offeror. This support may be remote.

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39.	Section III	**RFO_Employers_Representative_26_3010.docx, Section III Technical Evaluation Criteria 2.1-2.3:, page 11:** Technical Methodology and Approach, Workplan, and Organization and Staffing receive up to 7, 5, and 5 points respectively, but there are no sub-rating definitions or evaluation standards for how to achieve full scores. within each section. Can MCA-Belize provide additional guidance on how the methodology, work plan, and staffing criteria will be evaluated, including whether specific scoring descriptors or benchmarks will be used by the Technical Evaluation Panel to assign specific scores for Technical Methodology and Approach, Workplan, and Organization and Staffing sections?	The RFO provides criteria for methodology (7 points), workplan (5 points) and organization/staffing (5 points), and a common rating description from 0 to 5. Evaluation will address the published requirements and the relevant TECH-6 content.
40.		**Section V_TOR_Employer's Representative, Phase Construction and Marine Installation Oversight, Page 38:** Phase 4 construction and marine installation oversight is listed as only 4 months, which may not align with a 39-km submarine and underground cable project. Is the four-month indicative duration for Phase 4 intended to represent only active installation activities, or the entire field construction period? Please clarify the planning assumption that Offerors should use.	Use the 4 months as the indicative active installation activities.

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41.		**RFO_Employers_Representative_26_3010.docx, GCC 17.3, page 69:** 56% of the contract value is allocated across 16 quarterly reports, but manufacturing and installation workloads may not align with equal quarterly payments. Could MCA-Belize confirm that the payment schedule is fixed and not subject to modification during negotiations, and whether alternative milestone structures may be proposed?	Offerors shall base their Financial Offers on the published deliverable payment schedule. TECH-7 permits suggestions that are not used for evaluation and may be discussed during negotiations; MCA-Belize is not bound to accept them. The offer must remain responsive to the issued terms.
42.		Criterion 3.3.2 states that 'Additional credit will be given for experience in coral reef environments, constrained marine access, or environmentally sensitive coastal areas.', but no scoring allocation is provided. Please clarify how additional credit for coral reef, environmentally sensitive coastal environments, or constrained marine access experience will be applied within Criterion 3.3.2.	No additional standalone points will be awarded beyond the maximum points allocated to Criterion 3.3.2. Rather, experience in coral reef environments, constrained marine access, or environmentally sensitive coastal areas will be considered by the Technical Evaluation Panel when assessing the quality, relevance and depth of the Marine Installation Specialist's experience under Criterion 3.3.2.
43.		**RFO_Employers_Representative_26_3010.docx, page 12:** Evaluation requires submarine cable projects of "similar voltage class" but does not define an acceptable range. For purposes of demonstrating comparable submarine cable experience, what voltage range does MCA-Belize consider equivalent or similar to the proposed 115 kV system?	MCA-Belize acknowledges that the phrase "similar voltage class" is not explicitly defined in the RFO. For the purposes of evaluation, the intent is to identify experience on submarine power cable systems that are broadly comparable in technical complexity, design considerations, manufacturing requirements, testing regime, installation methodologies and operational characteristics to the proposed 115 kV interconnector.



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			Accordingly, for evaluation purposes, submarine power cable projects within the 72.5 kV to 170 kV class will generally be regarded as being of a similar voltage class to the proposed 115 kV system.
44.		**Section V_TOR_Employers Representative, TOR Overview Section 1.1 and Table 2:** Narrative says approximately 10 months procurement support, while Table 2 shows 8.5 months for procurement support plus 6 weeks of Employer's Requirements finalization. Can MCA-Belize clarify the expected duration of Phase 1 procurement support and whether Offerors should base staffing and pricing on approximately 10 months or on the durations shown in Table 2?	Approximately 10 months is the combined allowance: six weeks for initial Employer's Requirements finalization plus approximately 8.5 months of procurement support. It is not 10 months plus another six weeks. Staffing and pricing should reflect the different workload within the two portions.
45.		**Section V_TOR_Employers Representative, TOR Overview Section 3.1 Procurement Support:** The ER supports evaluation criteria, scoring, negotiations, and award recommendations for the EPCI procurement. The extent of participation is unclear. Please clarify the ER's role during the EPCI procurement evaluation process. As such, the Procurement Support Evaluation Role May Create OCI Concerns. Will the ER be a voting member of the evaluation team, provide advisory support only, or prepare evaluation documentation for MCA-Belize's approval?	The EPCI evaluation will be carried out by a Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) appointed by MCA-Belize, in line with the MCC AE PPG. The ER will act as a non-voting technical advisor to the TEP. This involves carrying out compliance checks and technical analysis of offers, drafting technical clarification questions, and preparing draft technical input to the evaluation report for the TEP to consider. The ER will not be a voting member of the TEP and will not make award decisions.



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46.		**TOR Section 5.1 Firm Experience; RFO Evaluation Criteria 1.1-1.3:** The TOR only requires general experience with submarine cable projects, while the evaluation criteria awards points for specific thresholds (3 projects, 2 projects, etc.). It is unclear whether these thresholds are minimum requirements or scoring thresholds. Could MCA-Belize clarify whether the experience thresholds stated in Evaluation Criteria 1.1 through 1.3 represent minimum requirements, scoring benchmarks, or maximum-scoring thresholds? If an Offeror exceeds the stated number of projects, how will additional experience be evaluated?	MCA-Belize confirms that the experience thresholds stated in Evaluation Criteria 1.1 to 1.3 are evaluation criteria and scoring benchmarks, not minimum qualification requirements or pass/fail requirements. The only pass/fail experience requirements are those set out under the Mandatory Criteria in Section III, together with the qualification requirements stated in the ToR and RFO. Additional projects beyond the stated thresholds do not create additional points above the maximum allocated to a criterion. However, they may assist an Offeror in demonstrating a stronger, broader or more relevant track record and therefore support a higher score within the maximum points available for that criterion.
47.		**Project Schedule and Pricing Assumptions** The ToR references approximately 30 months of engineering, construction and installation supervision, together with separate indicative periods for manufacturing oversight, construction/marine installation, testing and commissioning, DNP and closeout. For purposes of developing consistent staffing plans, workplans and Financial Offers, please provide the current indicative project master schedule, including anticipated	Offerors shall use the following common schedule assumptions, measured in months from the ER's Commencement of Services (Month 0, expected [January 2027]: (a) ER mobilization and finalization of the Employer's Requirements: Month 0 to 1.5; (b) EPCI procurement (two-stage) and contract award: Month 1.5 to 10; (c) EPCI mobilization and detailed design: Month 10 to 16;



		commencement, duration and completion dates for: • ER mobilization and finalization of the Employer's Requirements; • EPCI procurement and contract award; • EPCI mobilization and detailed design; • cable manufacturing and FAT; • marine installation and land cable works; • testing and commissioning; • Taking Over; • the 12-month DNP; and • Performance Certificate/final closeout. If these dates are not sufficiently developed to provide a project master schedule, please provide common schedule assumptions that Offerors should use in preparing their Technical and Financial Offers.	(d) cable manufacturing and FAT: Month 14 to 30; (e) land cable works: Month 22 to 34; marine installation (Phase 4): Month 29 to 33; (f) testing, commissioning and Trial Operation: Month 33 to 38; (g) Taking Over: about Month 39 (h) 12-month DNP: Month 39 to 51; (i) Performance Certificate and final closeout: about Month 51 to 54. The phases may overlap and this provides an overall planning allowance of up to approximately 58 months to accommodate schedule interfaces, float and project uncertainty. These assumptions are for proposal purposes only and will be updated once the EPCI Contractor's programme is approved.
48.		**ER Staffing and Level of Effort** Please clarify whether MCA-Belize has an indicative staffing profile or minimum person-month assumptions by Key Personnel and project phase that Offerors should use for pricing. If not, please confirm that staffing levels and deployment are to be proposed by each Offeror based on its methodology and interpretation of the ToR.	Offerors are to propose staffing levels and deployment based on their own methodology and interpretation of the ToR. MCA-Belize does not prescribe minimum person-month by expert or project phase. Offerors remain responsible for demonstrating that their proposed staffing is sufficient to perform the Services. Please see section 7.3 and reference the table labeled Indicative Level of Effort.
49.		**Employer's Requirements – Status and Remaining Scope**	Refer to the replies given to questions 4, 37 and 44. However the documents are



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		The ToR indicates that the ER will review and finalize the Employer's Requirements prepared by MCA-Belize and notes that only a small initial portion of the EPCI procurement-support period is expected to be dedicated to this activity. Please clarify: • the current level of development of the Employer's Requirements; • the principal documents/components already completed; • the specific documents/components the ER will be expected to develop, revise or finalize; and the anticipated period between ER mobilization and issuance of the EPCI procurement documents.	still to be completed by the ER. The period between ER mobilization and issue of the EPCI procurement documents is expected to be approximately 6 weeks
50.		**Manufacturing Surveillance and FAT Attendance** The ToR identifies manufacturing surveillance, FAT and quality-assurance responsibilities but does not clearly define the anticipated level of factory attendance. For purposes of establishing a common pricing basis, please clarify: • the number and anticipated duration of factory visits/FAT attendances to be included in the Offer; • whether surveillance is expected to be periodic/milestone-based or	See response to Question 13. In addition: Offerors shall include two planned physical factory inspection/FAT missions in their Financial Offer. The two missions may involve more than one manufacturing facility where necessary for the submarine cable and the underground cable, Manufacturing surveillance outside these physical missions will primarily consist of review of the Contractor's QMP, ITPs, manufacturing records, test procedures, nonconformances reports and other quality documentation.



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		continuous during critical manufacturing activities; • whether attendance may be required at multiple manufacturing or subcontractor facilities; and • whether Offerors should include travel and subsistence for a specified number of factory visits in their Financial Offers. If actual manufacturing-surveillance requirements exceed the stated pricing assumptions, please confirm how additional attendance would be authorized and compensated.	Travel and subsistence for the visits should be included in the Financial Offer as part of the two (2) FAT visits required per TOR. Additional physical factory attendance specifically instructed by MCA-Belize beyond this pricing baseline will require prior written authorization and will be managed under the applicable Contract provisions for additional Services.
51.		**Marine Installation Attendance** The ToR requires full-time or shift-based specialist presence during marine installation. For purposes of establishing a common pricing basis, please clarify: • the anticipated duration of the cable-lay and burial campaign; • the number of shifts per day requiring ER coverage and whether 24-hour coverage is anticipated; • the number and type of ER personnel expected to be vessel-based concurrently; • whether ER personnel are expected to remain aboard the installation vessel for the entire offshore campaign; and • whether separate attendance is anticipated for pre-lay activities, cable lay, burial, post-lay	The ER will be responsible for the designation of their key personnel and their qualified support staff. The schedule of respective scope is dependent on work activity requirements. The final duration and detailed sequencing of the marine installation campaign will depend on the EPCI Contractor's approved installation programme and marine spread. For proposal purposes, Offerors should use the approximately four-month active construction/marine-installation phase stated in the ToR.



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		inspection/burial verification, landfalls and remedial works.	
52.		**Full-Time Presence in Belize** Please clarify the periods/project phases during which MCA-Belize expects the ER to maintain full-time personnel in Belize, including the anticipated number and disciplines of personnel expected to be resident or continuously deployed during those periods.	Full-time or sustained in country/site presence in Belize is principally expected during active landfall and underground construction, marine installation and relevant testing. Procurement, design review, routine manufacturing surveillance and DNP activities may be predominantly office-based with targeted missions. MCA-Belize does not prescribe a fixed resident headcount. The Offeror shall propose sufficient resources for each phase.
53.		**ESHS Lead – Deployment and Level of Effort** Please clarify the anticipated staffing requirements for the ESHS Lead, including: • expected level of effort by project phase; • periods during which full-time presence in Belize is expected; • whether offshore/vessel attendance is required during marine installation; • whether the ESHS Lead may be supported by other ESHS personnel; and whether MCA-Belize has an assumed minimum number of person-months for this position for pricing purposes.	The ER should provide appropriate coverage for design/plan review, active coastal and marine works, land construction, commissioning and corrective actions. See response to #20 and #26



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54.		**BEL-Managed Works and Interface Responsibilities** The ToR identifies several BEL-managed terrestrial works as outside the direct scope of the EPCI Contractor and ER but subject to interface coordination. Please clarify whether the ER's responsibilities for these works are limited to interface management, schedule coordination and verification of interface readiness, or whether technical/design review, construction oversight, testing or other services associated with the BEL-managed works are also expected.	The ER's responsibilities for these works are limited to interface management, schedule coordination and verification of interface readiness. The ER will not be responsible for reviewing or overseeing works managed by BEL.
55.		**Delays and Extension of ER Services** If EPCI procurement, mobilization, design, manufacturing, installation, commissioning, DNP or closeout activities are delayed or extended for reasons outside the ER's control, please confirm: 1. whether the ER's performance period would be extended accordingly; 2. whether additional professional time would be compensated using the applicable personnel rates included in Form FIN-3, subject to authorization; and 3. how additional travel, subsistence and other reimbursable expenses associated with the extended period would be compensated	See response to #23



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56.		**Payment During EPCI Procurement or Mobilization Delays** If EPCI procurement or EPCI mobilization is delayed after commencement of the ER assignment, please confirm that the ER may continue to invoice for services actually performed in accordance with the applicable payment provisions and that payment will not be deferred solely because the EPCI Contract has not yet been awarded or mobilized.	ER may continue to invoice for services performed in accordance with contract terms and conditions.
57.		**DNP, Closeout and Compact End Date** The ToR contemplates a 12-month DNP together with ER support through issuance of the Performance Certificate and Final Payment Certificate. Please confirm that the anticipated ER services during the DNP and closeout period are included within the funding and contractual period contemplated for this assignment. In the event that EPCI implementation is delayed such that the DNP, Performance Certificate, Final Payment Certificate or other ER closeout obligations extend beyond the currently anticipated project schedule and/or Compact End Date, please clarify the contractual and funding mechanism through which continued ER services would be authorized and compensated.	See response to #2



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58.		**Employer-Provided Facilities and Support** Please confirm what office space, communications, local transportation, site facilities, administrative support and other resources, if any, will be provided by MCA-Belize and/or BEL to ER personnel in Belize.	The Employer shall not be responsible for providing longer term, dedicated office accommodation, vehicles, equipment, personnel, or other resources required by the ER to perform the Services. Site transportation shall be provided by the selected EPCI Contractor once the Contractor is hired.
59.		**In-Country Office and Support – Common Pricing Assumptions** If office facilities and related support will not be provided by MCA-Belize and/or BEL, please specify the minimum in-country office, transportation, communications, administrative support and related facilities that all Offerors should assume and include in their Financial Offers, including the anticipated duration for which such facilities should be maintained. If MCA-Belize does not have prescribed minimum requirements, please provide common pricing assumptions for all Offerors, including the assumed number of workstations, vehicles, administrative/support personnel, communications/IT requirements, and duration of the in-country office requirement.	Offerors shall propose and price the facilities and support needed for their methodology and deployment plan. The RFO does not prescribe workstation/vehicle/support-staff counts, IT specifications or a fixed long-term office duration. Required resources must be included in the fully loaded price.



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60.		Following the Pre-Offer Conference on 25 September 2026 and the anticipated issuance of clarification responses, we respectfully request an extension of at least two weeks beyond the current submission deadline of 26 October 2026.	The submission deadline remains October 26th, 2026.
61.		What is the exact scope of "installation supervision"? Assuming continuous ER presence on the barge is not required, how does the Client plan to manage 24/7 construction supervision?	Installation supervision includes review of installation methods and readiness, observation of critical operations, QA/ESHS checks, records, nonconformance reporting and follow-up, burial/installation evidence review and contractual recommendations. The premise that continuous barge presence is unnecessary is not established. Where installation runs 24/7, the proposed ER coverage must follow the working shifts, supported by shore personnel where land activities run concurrently; Contractor supervision remains its own obligation.
62.		Who is developing the cable and accessories specifications, and will they be in the bid package? If not already planned, we recommend adding this to the ER scope as an optional task to expedite the EPCI and procurement process.	Cable/accessory performance specifications belong in the Employer's Requirements used for EPCI procurement. MCA-Belize provides the draft; the ER reviews and completes it with BEL interface input. EPCI detailed product/system design remains the EPCI Contractor's responsibility. Completing required performance specifications is part of the indicated ER finalization task and should not be moved to an optional item without an express scope amendment.



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63.		Regarding Routing Studies, please confirm that the environmental evaluation and permitting process of the routes will be provided by others (not by the ER).	Belize Electricity Limited is responsible for the environmental permitting including but not limited to Environmental Clearance, land access, access to Hol Chan Marine Reserve. They are also engaging consultants for the Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Social Impact Assessment, and Marine Studies and Geotechnical studies. The ER must still review route/design compliance, monitor applicable conditions, track outstanding approvals and support interfaces within its TOR.
64.		Is there more information that can be shared regarding the "project completed in June 2026 interconnects Caye Caulker with Ambergris Caye"?	Mott MacDonald, San Pedro ESIA Update, MMD-378774-E-RE-009-A, July 2024, printed pages 9-11 and 112-118, including sections 2.2 and 15.2-15.4. This is historical environmental/installation context. Its earlier cable capacity and configuration must not be carried into the present 115 kV design. See link for the EIA to Sixth Power Project Caye Caulker Submarine Cable to Caye Caulker. https://doe.gov.bz/download/bel-caye-caulker-submarine-cable-project/



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65.		Regarding the interconnection with the BEL-managed works on the Bomba side: Is there a TJB, or will the submarine cable continue directly to the OH riser structure? If to the structure, who is responsible for the conduit sweep design (BEL or EPCI)?	The transition configuration as a fixed mainland TJB arrangement is not yet confirmed. The published clarification allocates cable termination/interconnection and the relevant riser/transition solution design to EPCI, with BEL constructing the riser/transition structure. The cable entry, conduit sweep/J-tube geometry and structural interface must therefore be coordinated in the approved design. Design, supply and installation limits for ducts must be stated expressly; direct continuation to an overhead riser should not be assumed.
66.		The 26km submarine cable is planned for shallow water. Have cable-laying vessel access studies been completed? Were any issues identified regarding access for a vessel large enough to carry the entire continuous cable length?	No completed vessel-specific access/carrying-capacity study is verified. The route is very shallow: the baseline survey TOR describes maximum depth of approximately 10 ft, and the historical ESIA identifies areas below 1.5 m with significant vessel constraints. The EPCI Contractor must demonstrate suitable loaded draught, access/transit, positioning, cable capacity, handling and environmental compliance; a vessel carrying one continuous 26 km length cannot be assumed feasible.
67.		Are easements and ROW in place for the 115 kV UG cable from Secret Beach to the New San Pedro North SS? Please confirm ROW support is excluded from the ER's scope.	This section of cable is anticipated to be installed within the existing road ROW. BEL will manage ROW support for the cable route.



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68.		One splice chamber is required for the 1 km direct-buried cable. Should the EPCI plan for a prefabricated chamber (e.g., 26'x7.5'x9' LxWxH) or a cast-in-place concrete chamber? (Note: The TJB can also be prefabricated; this clarification impacts technical review hours).	Neither prefabrication nor cast-in-place construction, and neither the suggested 26 ft x 7.5 ft x 9 ft dimensions nor a final joint-bay size, is confirmed as prescribed. The EPCI solution must satisfy cable bending/pulling limits, jointing access, structural loads, groundwater/buoyancy, drainage and maintenance requirements, subject to the Employer's Requirements and approvals. The ER reviews the proposed design and its interfaces; construction type should not be assumed solely for estimating review hours.
69.		Please confirm no HDD is expected for the shoreline landings. Shall we assume open trenching be used for near-shore installation at both ends.	The historical 2024 ESIA describes open-trench shore transitions, with buried/ducted land sections. That is a conceptual reference, not a categorical exclusion of HDD for the current 115 kV scheme. Landfall methods must suit the verified ground conditions, cable limits and current environmental approvals. Price review of the required EPCI method submissions; do not assume HDD is excluded unless the Employer's Requirements expressly say so.
70.		What level of technical detail will be in the EPCI bid package, conceptual, pre-FEED? Given the EPCI bid package release soon after ER NTP, should we assume a Pre-FEED-level study has already been completed?	The procurement package is intended to establish performance requirements, interfaces, site/reference information, testing and acceptance obligations for an EPCI/turnkey delivery. Availability of feasibility or environmental studies does not prove a completed FEED or pre-FEED package for the 115 kV system. The ER assesses and completes the tender requirements; the EPCI Contractor



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			undertakes detailed design and verifies information as required by its contract.
71.		To mitigate long lead times, is the Client open to the EPCI proposing submarine and UG cables from different manufacturers? (Reviewing two separate manufacturers will impact ER man-hours).	The ER RFO does not prescribe whether the submarine and underground cables must come from one manufacturer or may come from different manufacturers. The ER scope includes review of system compatibility, jointing/termination interfaces, quality assurance and applicable testing. Detailed supply arrangements must satisfy the future EPCI procurement documents and Contract.
72.		Is ER attendance at cable factory tests mandatory? If the proposed cable has a strong type-test record, can we include factory testing attendance as an optional item rather than in the base proposal?	Yes, the ER attendance at the cable factory acceptance tests (FAT) is mandatory. See responses provided to Questions: 12, 13, and 50.
73.		Have any geotechnical borings and soil thermal resistivity tests been conducted for the offshore and UG routes?	A separate BEL procurement for geophysical, targeted geotechnical and offshore/onshore thermal investigations. BEL will confirm actual completion status and release accepted logs/test reports when available.

These clarifications are issued for interpretative purposes only and do not constitute an amendment to the RFO document. All terms and conditions remain unchanged.